

Alaska State Legislature

SENATOR ALFRED OWEN
USANIK BAY, ALASKA



Senate

6/10/81

COMMITTEES
JUDICIARY
STATE AFFAIRS
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

(R)

6118740

President Reagan
The White House
Washington D.C.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

028484

REVIEWED BY WAB DATE 1-18-84

DDC ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
PREVIOUS EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☒ RELEASABLE ☒
FOUO DENIED ☐
FOI or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____

Dear Mr President:

It is high time to re-evaluate our relationship with Israel. For over a decade they have proven their unreliability as "good neighbors", and abused the support we have given them, misused the defensive arms we have furnished, and tried to intervene in our internal affairs.

We should not give further support to those who pick a confrontation and expect the US to bail them out. Up to this point no President of the US has had the moral courage to call Israel on its actions.

Israel may get us into more trouble than we can handle if we continue to overlook their actions.
Best wishes respect A Owen

81 JUL 22 19:26

UNCLASSIFIED
CLASSIFICATION

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DIST:
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S/S # 8118740

Date July 22, 1981

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
TRANSMITTAL FORM

FOR: Mr. Richard V. Allen
National Security Council
The White House

REFERENCE:

TO: President Reagan FROM: The Honorable Alfred A. Owen

DATE: June 10, 1981 SUBJECT: Israeli raid on Iraqi
reactor

WHITE HOUSE REFERRAL DATED: 6/17/81 NSC # 028484

THE ATTACHED ITEM WAS SENT DIRECTLY
TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION TAKEN:

- ☐ A draft reply is attached
- ☐ A draft reply will be forwarded
- ☐ A translation is attached
- ☒ An information copy of a direct reply is attached
- ☐ We believe no response is necessary for the
reason cited below
- ☐ Other

REMARKS:

PA-JO'Neil

PA/PC/CM:GDavis LPC: NEA 6/81
x21393:7/10/81

William Montgomery
for L. Paul Bremer, III
Executive Secretary

JUL 20 1967

The Honorable
Alfred A. Owen
Alaska State Senate
Kotlik, Alaska

Dear Mr. Owen:

I am replying to your message to President Pearson concerning the June 7 Israeli air attack on the nuclear reactor under construction in Tammuz, Iraq.

On June 8, the Department Spokesman condemned the Israeli air strike, noting that the unprecedented character of this action would seriously add to the already tense situation in the area and complicate our efforts to peacefully resolve problems there. The United States was not consulted in any way about any phase of the operation and was not informed of it in advance.

On June 10, the President suspended the scheduled delivery of four F-16 aircraft to Israel pending further study of the Israeli action and consultations with Congress. That same day, pursuant to Section 3 of the Arms Export Control Act, Secretary Faig sent letters to the Chairmen of the Senate Foreign Relations and House Foreign Affairs Committees indicating that a substantial violation of the 1952 U.S.-Israel Mutual Defense Assistance Agreement may have occurred. That agreement includes Israel's assurance that weapons acquired from the United States will be used only to maintain its internal security, its legitimate self-defense, or to permit it to participate in regional or United Nations (U.N.) collective security arrangements and measures. It also provides that Israel will not undertake any act of aggression against any other state. Israel has confirmed that the Israeli Air Force units involved in the air strike were equipped with defense articles furnished by the United States under the Foreign Military Sales program.

On June 19, the United States voted for U.N. Security Council Resolution 487 condemning the Israeli attack, making clear our profound concern about the raid's impact on the peace and security of all the nations of the Middle East.

We are reviewing this entire matter and discussing it with the Government of Israel. Neither our condemnation nor the suspension of delivery of the four aircraft is meant to imply that we have reached any determination on the questions raised under U.S. law by Israel's act.

We have carefully noted the Israeli and Iraqi positions. Israel contends that its action against Iraq was a necessary, legitimate act of self-defense because the Iraqi reactor was in

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X21393 7-14-81

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LPC: NEA: 6/81
PA: J. O'Neil

- 2 -

tended to produce weapons grade material to make atomic bombs. Israel also points out that there is a state of war between the two countries and contends that Iraq had made clear its intention to produce such a weapon for use against Israel.

Iraq, on the other hand, denies that its nuclear program has any application other than the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Iraq points out that it has ratified the Non-Proliferation Treaty and that its reactor and supply of enriched uranium were subject to International Atomic Energy Agency safeguard controls.

The United States does not believe that force can provide the answer to international disputes. Our condemnation of Israel's action was intended to clearly express this view. At the same time, as Ambassador Kirkpatrick made clear before the U.N. Security Council, we remain fully committed to the security and well-being of Israel and to the friendship between our two countries. The United States will continue to do all in its power to achieve a just and lasting peace for all the peoples of the Middle East.

Sincerely,

/s/

David E. Sincov
Director
Office of State and Local Government Affairs

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

8118740

JUNE 17, 1981

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:

DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 028484

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED JUNE 10, 1981

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: THE HONORABLE ALFRED A. OWEN
STATE SENATOR
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
KODIAK AK 99697

SUBJECT: IN VIEW OF THE BOMBING OF IRAQI NUCLEAR
REACTOR BY ISRAELI WARPLANES, FEELS IT IS
TIME FOR THE UNITED STATES TO RE - EVALUATE
THE RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL — IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN
TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE
UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN BASIC CORRESPONDENCE, CONTROL SHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE
(OR DRAFT) TO:
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 33, THE WHITE HOUSE

BY DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENT:
LESLIE SORG
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE